

THE LAST BIRD

YOU ARE THE LAST BIRD
ON THE VAST RIM
OF THE UNIVERSE
NOTHING FOLLOWS YOU
BUT THE DARK WAKE
OF ETERNITY
NOTHING ECHOES
OF THE CLAMOROUS SONG
THE SLAPPING WINGS
OF YOUR SPIRALLING FLOCK
IN THE STILL AND STARLESS VOID

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE! OH SEE ME AS I WAIT
BEYOND BRIGHT GLASS, IN A SILENT HALL
LONGING TO TOUCH, TO KNOW, TO RE-CREATE
YOUR THUMPING HEART, YOUR LONG FORGOTTEN CALL
LONGING TO LEARN THE SECRET OF YOUR FATE
OH TURN FROM YOUR STEADFAST FLIGHT AND TELL ME ALL
SOAR FROM THIS LONG DEAD CLAY, THIS EMPTY PLATE
AND LET A SINGLE LIVING FEATHER FALL!

THE BOWL OF SUNSET

INTO THE BOWL OF SUNSET
I DIP MY BRUSH

I PAINT OUR BODIES
JOINED
BESIDE FIELDS FULL OF WAVES

HERE WE ARE
AND HERE AND HERE
BLINDED BY SUNLIGHT
THE COLOUR OF BLOOD

WE TURN AWAY
AS YOU PRESS INTO ME
I BOW MY HEAD
FLOWING
FILLED

HERE WE ARE
AND HERE AND HERE
AS AT OUR FEET
THE SWOLLEN SEEDS
BURST FROM THE
FLOODED EARTH

SONG TO SOFTEN THE EARTH

OLD EARTH
STUBBORN EARTH
HEAR MY SONG
OLD EARTH
STUBBORN EARTH
HEAR MY SONG

LET IT SOFTEN YOUR HARD HEART
LET IT PIERCE YOUR THICK SKIN
LET IT SHATTER YOUR STONE BROW
YOUR PROUD, DEFIANT CHIN

MY SONG IS THE PROBING OF FINGERS
THE PATTERNING OF BARE FEET
PERSISTENT...TENDER

MY SONG IS THE GRINDING OF TEETH
EXHALING OF BITTER BREATH
DEMANDING SURRENDER

MY SONG IS THE LAUGHTER OF BIRDS
THE WHISPER OF VANISHING SCALES
ELUSIVE...CLEAR

MY SONG IS THE BLAZE OF MORNING
THE FROZEN SLAP OF NIGHT
RELENTLESS, SEVERE

OLD EARTH
STUBBORN EARTH
HEAR MY SONG
OLD EARTH
STUBBORN EARTH
HEAR MY SONG

LET IT CRACK YOUR CARAPACE
YOUR UNBREAKABLE CRUST
LET IT SHIVER YOU TO RUBBLE
TO SAND...TO DUST....

CANALS

COME DELUGE
COME TUMULTUOUS FLOOD
COME WITH YOUR RED HEART RAGING
FROM THE EAST
COME WITH YOUR SUDDEN FURY
YOUR CLOUDS THE COLOUR OF BLOOD
POUNCE ON THIS QUIET VALLEY
LIKE A BEAST

AH, COME!

FOR I HAVE MADE A BED FOR YOU
WIDE AND STRAIGHT AND DEEP
I HAVE MADE A BED FOR YOU
WHERE YOU SHALL TOSS AND WEEP
THEN STRETCH YOUR SHIMMERING, SODDEN LIMBS
AND SLEEP

AH, SLEEP

COME TORRENT
COME UNTAMEABLE STORM
COME WITH YOUR RECKLESS THUNDER
CRASHING DOWN
COME IN A TOWERING DARKNESS
A TWISTING TERRIBLE SWARM
ALL WHO LIE IN YOUR WAY
MUST FLY OR DROWN

AH, COME

FOR I HAVE MADE A BED FOR YOU
STRAIGHT AND DEEP AND WIDE
I HAVE MADE A BED FOR YOU
TO STEM YOUR SAVAGE TIDE
TO SWIFTLY CALM AND CONQUER
AND DIVIDE....DIVIDE.....DIVIDE....

SERPENT SONG

TWISTING SERPENT
SLEEK EMISSARY
TO THAT FAR COUNTRY
OF THE DEAD
CARRY MY WORDS
ON YOUR SINUOUS SPINE
LIKE A SECOND SKIN
AND IN THE DISTANT SHADOWS
SHED THEM
AT THE SHELL OF HIS EAR

TELL HIM I CAN'T REMEMBER
REMEMBER HIS SLENDER FINGERS
THE TILT OF HIS HEAD
THE COLOUR OF HIS EYES - AH
EVEN THE COLOUR OF HIS EYES!

TELL HIM I CAN'T REMEMBER
THE TASTE OF HIS KISS
THE HARD SUMMER BED
OUR TENDER SKIRMISHES, OUR CRIES
SWEET, WOUNDED CRIES

ASK HIM
HOW COULD HE DO IT?!
HOW COULD HE LEAVE ME
WHEN I LOVED HIM SO!
I LOVED HIM SO!

WHY DID HE CHOSE
THE ARMS OF DEATH
AND LEAVE MINE EMPTY?
WHY DID HE GO?
WHY DID HE GO!

TELL HIM I CAN'T REMEMBER
REMEMBER HIS EAGER LAUGHTER
IF HE WAS SHY OR BOLD
THE MOMENT THAT WE MET - YES!
EVEN THE MOMENT THAT WE MET!

TELL HIM I CAN'T REMEMBER
THE THROB OF HIS HEART
THE STORIES HE TOLD
TELL HIM I TRIED SO HARD SO HARD
TO NOT FORGET....

ASK HIM
HOW COULD HE DO IT!
HOW COULD HE CUT
THE TETHER OF MY LOVE
SUCH PERFECT LOVE

WHY DID HE CHOSE
THAT DARKENED PATH
AND LEAVE ME HERE ABOVE
SO LONG, ALONE, ABOVE

BUT I FEEL A HARD KNOT
WHERE MY HEART IS
AN ACHE THAT WAKES ME
IN THE NIGHT
TORMENTS ME TILL DAWN
I TASTE ON MY LIPS
THE SALT OF NEW TEARS
OF OLD TEARS, OF TEARS
THAT GO ON AND ON AND ON

TELL HIM MY EYES ARE CLOUDY
AND MY LONG HAIR GROWS WHITE
WITH EACH CRUEL YEAR
I LIVE BUT DO NOT LIVE - AH YES
I LIVE BUT DO NOT LIVE

TELL HIM I MEANT TO FORGIVE
AND NEVER, NEVER FORGET
BUT NOW I FEAR
I HAVE FORGOTTEN UTTERLY
YET I STILL CANNOT FORGIVE

FERTILITY CUP

OH! OH! LOOK AT YOU!
HA HA HA HA HA
I CAN'T HELP LAUGHING
BUT WITH DELIGHT! DELIGHT!

IT IS THE LAUGHTER OF A MOTHER
WHEN SHE SEES HER BOY
DANCING AFTER A BATH

IT IS THE LAUGHTER OF A WIFE
WHEN SHE SEES HER HUSBAND
IN A NEW HAT

PROUD, IMPERTINENT THING -
WITH YOUR NOSE IN THE AIR
WITH YOUR SIDEWAYS GRIN
HOW CAN I NOT GRIN BACK AND LAUGH
AND LAUGH AND LAUGH
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

ALL USED UP

ALL USED UP
I AM ALL USED UP
ALL USED UP
ALL, ALL, ALL USED UP

MY BLOOD IS A FIELD OF SALT
MY FEET ARE A GULLY OF CLAY
MY FINGERS ARE FLOCKS OF BIRDS
FLAPPING AWAY

I AM ALL USED UP
ALL USED UP
ALL, ALL, ALL USED UP

THE SUN IS WEARING MY SKIN
THE WIND HAS STOLEN MY TEARS
THE SAND HAS SCOURED MY BONES
FOR YEARS AND YEARS

I AM ALL USED UP
ALL USED UP
ALL, ALL, ALL USED UP

I LISTENED BUT COULD NOT HEAR
I LOOKED BUT COULD NOT SEE
HOW THAT WHICH I THOUGHT I USED
USED ME

I AM ALL USED UP
ALL USED UP
ALL, ALL, ALL USED UP

CASA GRANDE

I CLIMB THE STAIR
RED AND WORN
A WHISPER OF SAND
FLOWS OVER THE SILL
THE AIR IS STILL

ALL AROUND THIS LONELY HEIGHT
THE DESERT STRETCHES
SCRAWLED WITH OBSCURE LINES
MESSAGES ERASED BY TIME

THERE IN THE EAST YOU ARE VANISHING
SAND SWALLOWING YOUR FOOTPRINTS
YOUR VOICE DYING
YOUR BACK TURNED
YOUR SHOULDERS SET

WITHOUT ANGUISH OR REGRET
YOU MOVE INTO THE VAST
PERPLEXING KINGDOM
OF THE PAST

DID YOU WATCH HERE ONCE
AND SEE IN THE WEST
A THRONGING FUTURE -
DUMBFOUNDING SCENES
THE DIN OF FOREIGN TONGUES
THE RUMBLE OF MACHINES
THE GLINT OF RUTHLESS METALS
INVASION OF DISEASE
AND A GOD TO HUMBLE ALL YOUR GODS
AND BRING THEM TO THEIR KNEES?

DID YOU SHAKE YOUR HEAD?
DID YOU TAKE YOUR HAND
FROM YOUR BROW AND SIGH?
DID YOU STAND AND STARE AND STARE
EYE TO INFINITELY DISTANT EYE?
THEN BLINK, THEN TURN
AND LEAVE WITHOUT GOOD-BYE?

NIGHT FALLS
THE MOON BEGINS TO GLOW
AND PAST AND FUTURE FLOW
AND BLEND
WE LOOK UP AT THE FROZEN STARS
AS TIME TURNS SLOWLY
END ON END

OUR SHADOWS CROSS AND DANCE TOGETHER
ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT TOUCH OR SPEAK
BUT THERE! A SINGLE FEATHER
FLOATS AND FALL AGAINST MY CHEEK!